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Letter dated 28 September 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

As the time set by the Security Council for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to complete its work draws closer, it becomes more imperative than ever that its work be conducted with the highest standards of integrity and veracity, as well as with efficiency.

My Government has in the past brought to the attention of the Security Council the fact that the Tribunal has among its staff, including on defence teams, individuals who are themselves accused of having committed serious crimes during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. My Government identified one Callixte Gakwaya and 13 other individuals who are well known among Rwandans as genocide suspects, but who are currently employed or have until very recently been employed by the Tribunal.

The Government and the people of Rwanda consider it the most perverse outrage for genocide suspects to serve in any capacity on the very Tribunal established to bring the most serious suspects to justice.

We also consider it unfortunate that at a time when the Tribunal was working to repair its damaged reputation among Rwandans, it is seen to be failing to take any action to distance itself from these genocide suspects. This is undermining the credibility of the Tribunal in Rwanda and will further compromise confidence in it among genocide survivors and witnesses.

My Government considers this state of affairs to be very unfortunate. We believe that it could complicate the implementation of the completion strategy at a time when the international community expects the Tribunal to be working diligently, with the highest standards of integrity and efficiency, to complete its work.

Furthermore, there is little doubt in our minds that Member States of the United Nations, whose assessed and voluntary contributions finance the Tribunal, would strongly object to their contributions being spent to pay salaries or other fees to individuals who are themselves genocide suspects.

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Finally, I wish to reiterate, once again, my Government's readiness to continue to cooperate fully with the Tribunal in its work. We sincerely hope that this issue can be addressed expeditiously to enable the Tribunal to regain the confidence of the Rwandan people.

I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Prof. Joseph **Nsengimana**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative